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1 peace accord that ended the 1973-90 civil strife.

Fahd to activate \$2b Lebanon fund

JEDDAH (AP) — King Fahd has decided to activate a \$2 billion fund for reconstruction of Lebanon, devastated by 15 years civil war. Lebanon diplomats said Sunday, King Fahd conveyed his decision to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi during the latter's two-day visit to the kingdom which ended Sunday. The promised financial support would considerably ease Lebanon's economic hardships. It also would boost confidence in the government's ability to preserve peace and restore normalcy to Lebanon. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the diplomats said in addition to activating the fund, King Fahd promised to extend other grants to that country's needs. Saudi Arabia was the second phase of a Gulf trip to drum up financial support for post-civil war reconstruction. Mr. Hrawi last week visited Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates where he was promised support, but nothing as concrete as the pledges he reportedly got from King Fahd. Saudi Arabia was a key mediator in the Lebanon peace accord that ended the 1973-90 civil strife.

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AMMAN MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1993, SHAWAL 13, 1413

Iraq arrests 300 traders for overcharging

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's economic crime squads have arrested 300 traders in a crackdown on overcharging. The newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, reporting the latest phase in Iraq's struggle with the effects of Gulf war trade sanctions, called Sunday for a "deadly strike against these thieves, who deserve everybody's curse." Penalties for overcharging on price-controlled basic foods include six months in prison and confiscation of goods. But a similar crackdown last year led to the execution of 42 traders. An official newspaper warned last week that "harsh and stiff penalties" imposed in the past had not been effective. The authorities now threaten to arrest customers who pay inflated prices as well as the traders who sell to them, although there are no reports that they have actually done so. Lieutenant-Colonel Hashim Mohammad Faraj, warned in a newspaper interview Sunday that his economic crime squads, scattered all around Baghdad, would not hesitate to treat both parties of an illegal bargain alike.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

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Arab meeting to go ahead in Cairo

DOHA (R) — Arab League foreign ministers will meet in Cairo this month despite attempts by some Arab states to have the talks shifted to another capital because of a wave of violence in Egypt, a senior Arab official said Sunday. The official said in the Qatari capital that a majority of the league's 21 members had voted to block the proposal to move the venue of the meeting scheduled for later this month. The source would not say which countries favoured holding the meeting outside Egypt. Sources in Rabat said in March that Morocco had offered to host the meeting to discuss the Middle East peace process. "We should not be the ones to run at the first sign of trouble," said the Arab official whose country voted against moving the meeting.

Resistance, Israeliis trade artillery fire

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Resistance fighters launched two attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon Sunday, drawing retaliatory artillery barrages, security sources said. There was no immediate word on casualties, added the sources. But the Hezbollah claimed that three Israeli soldiers were killed in the second attack. A Hezbollah communiqué said its guerrillas fired several mortar rounds on a hilltop Israeli army position in Shoumariyah at 4:10 p.m. (1310 GMT), on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. It said two Israeli armoured vehicles were set on fire. A second guerrilla squad detonated a roadside bomb while an Israeli patrol was driving towards Shoumariyah from the vicinity of the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle. "The explosion went off as enemy soldiers headed to inspect the two burning vehicles, killing three Israeli soldiers," the statement said. The claim could not be immediately substantiated.

Aid agencies evacuate Kismayu

MOGADISHU (R) — Two leading aid agencies have pulled out of the southern Somali port of Kismayu because they fear they will be attacked by warring clans. A U.N. spokesman said Sunday. Farouk Mawlawi told reporters the Brussels-based aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres had withdrawn its staff from Kismayu. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the main distributor of food in the area, closed down its Kismayu operation Wednesday after hand grenades lobbed into the ICRC compound (see page 2 for stories related to Somalia).

Pakistan vows to fail Kashmir march

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan vowed Sunday to stop thousands of demonstrators threatening to storm across the disputed ceasefire line into India's violence-wrecked Kashmir state. Authorities dynamited a giant chunk of the mountain to block the only road leading to the narrow border crossing at Charoiki, about 50 kilometres from the Himalayan capital of Muzaffarabad. "We'll stop them. They won't be allowed to cross the border. They won't be allowed to get close," said Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain. But the march organiser, Mumtaz Rathore, vowed to risk death rather than turn back. "We will continue until death stops us, not before," Mr. Rathore told a frenzied mob of demonstrators.

Bomb hoax at AUC

CAIRO (AP) — The American University in Cairo (AUC) was partially evacuated Sunday after an anonymous caller claimed a bomb was planted in the library. A nearly two-hour search of the university's main library and a smaller one containing a collection of rare books found no bombs and classes resumed normally. The American University in Cairo is a private university accredited in the United States. It was founded in 1919. Security has been increased at the university with uniformed guards at the gates, checking bags of people entering the campus, for fear of attacks by Muslim militants who escalated their violent protests last year. Dozens of plainclothes security men also have crowded downtown area.

Major changes at Armed Forces

Abu Taleb retires; Mirai is named successor
Shurdom leaves service, named King's advisor

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sunday made several changes in the hierarchy of the Armed Forces, continuing a series of retirements and replacements at the head of the Kingdom's security forces.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said a royal decree was issued endorsing a Cabinet decision to accept a request by Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that he be retired.

Another decree named Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh as Field Marshal Abu Taleb's successor.

The King also endorsed a Cabinet decision to retire Lieutenant-General Ihsan Hamed Shurdom, chief of staff of the Air Force, upon his request, and appointed him as an advisor to His Majesty.

Informed sources said more reshuffles and reassessments as well as retirements were expected at the Armed Forces headquarters. That will be carried by Lt. Gen. Mirai, whose appointment takes effect from Monday.

Gen. Kaabneh, 56, who served as member of the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, was the chief of military intelligence prior to his promotion Monday.

The new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a graduate of the



Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb

Royal Military Academy of Jordan, holds a masters degree in military science from the Royal College of Defence Studies in England.

In 1962, he was awarded the Medal for Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in the battlefield.

Royal decrees issued Sunday accepted the retirement of Fadel Ali Freid as director-general of the Public Security Department (PSD) and appointed Major-General Abdul Rahman Udwan as his successor.

The King also promoted the outgoing PSD chief to the rank of lieutenant-general and awarded him the Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order.



Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh

In a message he sent Sunday to Field Marshal Abu Taleb, the King paid tribute to the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I have known you throughout your working life in the military, offering a distinguished performance and serving as a true faithful soldier and a true military leader never shirking his responsibility," the King said in his message.

"You have lived through the various stages of the development of the Armed Forces alongside officers and troops, and through your efforts you have helped in building up a distinguished armed forces which serve as a shield protecting the nation and holding the standard of the Great Arab

Revolt and defending its principles," the King said.

Praising Field Marshal Abu Taleb's service over the past 40 years in the Armed Forces, the King said that the retired chief of staff will always "remain a dear brother" enjoying his absolute confidence, affection and appreciation.

King Hussein also congratulated the new army chief wishing him success in his leadership of the Armed Forces.

"I have known you as a courageous and faithful soldier and one among a distinguished elite of senior officers who continue to enjoy my affection and who continue to struggle to uphold the principles of the Arab Nation and defend its honour," King Hussein said.

In reaffirming the need for the armed forces' continued preparedness, the King said "every effort should be made to raise the standards of the Armed Forces and the armed forces institutions and colleges."

"We take pride in the armed forces which has inherited the noble values of the Great Arab Revolt and therefore the army should be ready to offer sacrifice in defence of the Arab Nation," the King added.

King Hussein voiced his absolute confidence in the Armed Forces and the new chief and the standard of the Great Arab

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sunday visits the Army General Headquarters where he was received by the outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief of staff of the land forces, the outgoing chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, the assistants of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the inspector general. King Hussein had a meeting with Field Marshal

King underlines Jordan's commitment to respect for human rights, freedoms

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a message to the new director of the Public Security Department (PSD), Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan, congratulating him on his post and voicing absolute support for and pride in the security services of Jordan.

"We trust that, armed with awareness and vigilance, we are no doubt deepening our sense of security, dignity, freedom, democracy and human rights which should not be contested or compromised," King Hussein said.

"Huge efforts are needed to protect them and we would carry out this responsibility under all circumstances and crises."

"Jordan has served as an illustrious beacon for those seeking new hope," he said. "Jordan has renounced and fought off intellectual terrorism and has never condoned violence, fanaticism, malice and anarchy, but has rather opted for tolerance with firmness that can best ensure security."

"The PSD will continue to embrace and support higher values and noble ideals and will continue to serve as strong arm of justice and a bridge for all citizens seeking security and progress."

Maj.-Gen. Udwan, who was appointed PSD chief by a Royal Decree which took effect Sunday, was educated at Alexandria University where he graduated with a

law degree in 1968. He has served with the PSD ever since.

The posts he had assumed include as head of the police court and the head of the PSD's legal affairs department, and head of the badiya and border police force. He also served as head of the Balqa and Irbid governors' police departments before serving as PSD deputy chief for planning and operations until his new appointment.

The PSD Sunday announced a limited reshuffle among its senior officers.

Brigadier Ahmad Khasawneh became director of residency and border department, Brig. Izzedin Zaza became commander of the police academy, Brigadier Adel Arnouti became director of the preventive security branch. Colonel Hisham Ensour became director of the Anti-Narcotics Department, Lt.-Colonel Mohammad Suleiman became director of the PSD's diwan, and Lt. Colonel Fadel Al Dubait became director of the Aqaba police department.

(Continued on page 5)

Arab labour conference opens in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opened an Arab Labour Conference with the participation of all Arab League member states including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia along with the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

The delegations to the conference include employers, workers and government representatives.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kababri, who will represent Jordan at the meeting, said in a statement Sunday that Jordan would submit a working paper proposing a practical mechanism to deal with the problem of unemployment in the Arab World.

(Continued on page 5)

King meets Arab ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Sunday at the Royal Court Oman's Minister of Labour Sheikh Ahmad Ben Saleh Al Eisa'i, who is currently in Amman to attend the Arab labour ministers conference which will open Monday.

The Omani minister conveyed to King Hussein the greetings of Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed of Oman and expressed appreciation of King Hussein's leadership.

The minister also lauded the distinguished relations between Jordan and Oman and commended the leaderships of the two countries for their keenness to enhance relations.

The King said the visiting minister to convey his greetings to Sultan Qaboos and voiced his hope that the Arab labour conference will be a good omen, auguring well for the Arab Nation.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

King Hussein also received Qatar's Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing Abdul Rahman Al Dirham and Bahraini Labour Minister Sheikh Khalifah Ben Salman Al Khalifeh. The two meetings were attended by Dr. Karaki.

Israeli troops raid Gaza refugee camp

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli troops clamped a curfew on an occupied Gaza Shati refugee camp. Israeli forces searched house to house and rounded up hundreds of Palestinian men and boys. Most were released.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said the indefinite closure of the occupied territories had reduced violent incidents.

The security forces are using a variety of measures in order to locate fugitives who are responsible for the murders of Israelis and Palestinians in order to bring about tranquillity in these areas," he said.

The closure was expected to remain in force at least until after the first day of Passover which ends on Tuesday night.

Palestinians called the closure a collective punishment that would

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinian leaders debate peace talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestinian leadership has begun a crucial session on whether or not to send negotiators to the next round of Middle East peace talks with Israel, set to open on April 20 in Washington.

But Palestinian officials said that, with the impasse over Israel's expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon and the new crackdown on the more than two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, the answer could be a "No."

"Our stand now is not to accept the invitation to resume negotiations on April 20," chief negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi said before the closed-door meeting started late Saturday at Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis.

Diplomats said they do not expect a clear Palestinian answer before Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington Tuesday.

(Continued on page 5)

Mubarak said seeking meeting with Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said Sunday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in Washington to try to revive Middle East peace talks, wants to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after his return.

Arab negotiators have refused to renew peace talks in Washington on April 20 until a deadlock is broken over Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of six Palestinians to Lebanon.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said the Egyptian ambassador to Israel requested a few days ago an Israeli-Egyptian summit but no date or place was

set.

"We've known for some time that Mubarak was interested in meeting with Rabin after his trip to Washington but again in terms of exact dates and in terms of location, nothing is set," Mr. Ben-Ari told Reuters.

A flurry of diplomatic activity is planned before the peace talks are due to resume. Mr. Mubarak, on a five-day U.S. visit, meets President Bill Clinton Tuesday.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Sunday that Arab participants at the talks — Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the

According to Israeli diplomats, the impetus for such a summit comes from the Arabs. They believe such a high-level encounter could lead Mr. Rabin to relax terms and thereby enable the Palestinians to return to the peace talks. In particular, the Palestinians want Mr. Rabin to agree some of those expelled from the occupied territories between 1967-1970 could return, just as they would like Israel to expedite the return of the nearly 400 Hamas exiles who are scheduled to return at the end of the year.

Department, said the meeting would run through Tuesday and possibly longer.

"All that I can say is that there is nothing new" coming from the United States, lead co-sponsor with Russia of the peace process launched 17 months ago in Madrid, Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

"We are discussing all the options, to go or not to go, or to not take a final decision and continue the discussions and consultations," he said.

A call for a postponement of the next round of Arab-Israeli talks had not been excluded, he added.

Diplomats said they do not expect a clear Palestinian answer before Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington Tuesday.

(Continued on page 5)

Summit produces \$1.6b aid package for Russia

VANCOUVER (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton prepared a more than \$1.6 billion aid package for Russian President Boris Yeltsin Sunday as the two leaders wrapped up their first summit.

Mr. Clinton, who began his second summit day with a brisk jog, was formally announcing his aid package at a joint news conference with Mr. Yeltsin ending the two-day summit in this picturesque western Canadian seaport.

But administration officials unveiled details earlier in the day. It includes \$690 million in direct grants, \$700 million in grain and other food credits and \$230 million in other aid.

Mr. Clinton's package — designed to help maintain political and economic reforms in Russia — also would establish a "democracy corps" of Americans to engage in "people-to-people" contacts with Russians.

Mr. Clinton concluded the

2 Middle East News

Bouez: U.S. siding with Israel in peace process

DOTTA (R) — Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez has said the Clinton administration was siding with Israel instead of being an impartial mediator in the stalled Middle East peace process.

"Assuming a role of a fair and trusted mediator means that the United States cannot be a strategic ally of Israel and at the same time be a fair or trusted mediator," Mr. Bouez said.

He was speaking to Reuters Saturday in the Qatari capital of Doha where it is holding talks on economic cooperation.

Mr. Bouez criticised statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Congress last week in which he described Israel as Washington's strategic ally and expressed commitment to the Jewish state's military superiority in the region.

"There is mystery and vagueness in some contradictory statements that are made and what is needed is a clarification of these positions in a firm way," Mr. Bouez said.

He said teams representing the Arabs involved in the peace process — Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Palestinians — would go to Washington on April 10 to seek clarification of Mr. Christopher's comments.

The Arab-Israeli peace talks launched in Madrid 17 months ago were stalled by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians on December 17 to South Lebanon.

Mr. Bouez said the Arab negotiating teams were also awaiting the outcome of Egyptian Presi-

DOTTA (R) — Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez has said the Clinton administration was siding with Israel instead of being an impartial mediator in the stalled Middle East peace process.

He said Mr. Mubarak's talks with President Bill Clinton in Washington this week.

The pledges in return for the return of all the expellees rather than a phased return by the end of the year as has been suggested by Washington.

"We are not asking for something new. We are demanding that the United States abide by its role as stipulated in the letters of assurances," presented by the former administration of President George Bush before the Middle East peace conference in Madrid in October 1991.

Asked what the Arabs wanted from the United States, Mr. Bouez said it had to "play an effective role, be a true driving force and a full partner in the peace process."

He said Lebanon would not go to the negotiating table without the Palestinian team. "We either all go or nobody goes. I assert that we will not accept any international divisions."

Mr. Bouez said he would meet the foreign ministers of Syria and Jordan and the foreign affairs chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in April 16 to decide whether to accept an invitation by the United States and Russia to Arabs and Israelis to attend the ninth round of talks in April 20 in Washington.

They met in Damascus on March 28, but delayed a decision to allow time for consultations among Arab states and the co-sponsors in resolving the expel-

lee crisis.

Palestinians say they want U.S. guarantees that Israel carries out promises offered to Palestinians to revive the talks.

The pledges in return for Palestinian participation in the April 20 talks included rescheduling the return of Palestinian expellees and a promise to offer a new proposal on self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip when the talks resume.

Israel, in a deal worked out with Washington, agreed to take back 101 expellees and repatriate the rest in phases before the end of the year. The move angered Arabs who had demanded Israel's full compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, calling for their immediate return.

In Marj Al Zohour, Lebanon, Palestinian expellees urged Arabs Sunday to reject a phased return as a compromise to restart the peace process.

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MARKEPLACE: Egyptian soldiers buy products from Palestinian women at the Rafah border crossing in northeastern Egypt used for passage by most Israelis and Palestinians crossing to and from Egypt to the occupied territories (AFP photo)

Somalia's oasis of peace isolated from relief aid

BOSASSO, Somalia (R) — Politicians in Bosasso say peace is the north-eastern port's worst enemy because relief efforts target only the trouble spots in Somalia.

"All the relief efforts are centralized in Mogadishu and the southern parts of Somalia. Rather than being rewarded for having a good security situation, I feel we are being punished," said Mohammad Abshir Muse, chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), the dominant party in the region.

The handful of aid agencies in the port regard the U.N.'s special envoy, retired Admiral Jonathan Howe, as a visit to Bosasso, rather than a pump funds into the ailing district.

In line with the rest of Somalia, the region's infrastructure and economy is in tatters. But apart from the occasional thief, Mr. Muse said the arid, rocky port was tranquil.

The north-eastern part of Somalia has become a haven for nearly 300,000 refugees and displaced people. This put an enormous strain on local people.

Hadi Chikh, Bouthan of the World Food Programme (WFP), said the area desperately needed more wells and a school. "Malnutrition was life and otherwise widespread."

We need the support of international governmental organizations (NGOs), but no one is prepared to come here because it's so quiet. I think NGOs prefer to go to the more spectacular areas where they have the cover of CNN," he said, referring to the U.S. television channel, Cable News Network.

United Nations forces who arrived in December focused their efforts on the capital at south of the city of Somalia, the scene of most recent clan warfare and conflict.

The United Nations, under Admiral Howe's command, has control of the whole of

Pirates poach Somali waters

BOSASSO, Somalia (R) — Local leaders say pirate trawlers have taken advantage of Somalia's civil war to strip the rich fishing grounds off its northeastern coast.

"We have been robbed by sea pirates of our marine resources. They are taking advantage of our national tragedy," said Mohammad Abshir Muse, chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front.

Mr. Muse said Saturday that Italian, Greek, Taiwanese, Russian and South Korean ships were "having a field day looting Somali waters" of lobster, crab, tuna and other fish.

The former port manager, Oman Deria, said foreign ships entered Somali waters in the Gulf of Aden at night. He said the poachers used powerful spotlights and illegal, tightly spun drag nets to haul in their catch.

"When locals tried to stop them, the ships sprayed them with hot water. It's nothing more than robbery," Mr. Deria said.

Mr. Muse said Bosasso, the main port in northeastern Somalia about 650 kilometres east of Djibouti, was a hustling fishing area before the Somali war broke out just over two years ago and shut down the region's four fishing factories.

"We have one of the richest maritime coastlines in the world. Studies by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate we could export fish to the value of about \$200 million (a year). But now our fish are being stolen," Mr. Muse said.

Local leaders said they also suspected foreign nations were dumping toxic waste in Somali waters, adding that they had asked the environmental group Greenpeace to investigate.

Mr. Muse appealed to the United Nations special envoy in Somalia, retired U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, to help stop the poaching.

Search warrants were executed at Ayad's home and office; Mr. Weinglass knew nothing about either.

Kate Cosenza, spokeswoman for U.S. attorney Roger Hayes, denied there had been a problem in turning over the evidence. At a Thursday hearing, U.S. District Judge Kevin T. Duffy ruled the defense would begin getting some evidence Monday.

Mr. Duffy also imposed a gag rule, over defense objections, barring further statements by either side. "The next time I pick up a paper and see a quotation from any of you, you had best be prepared to have some money," Mr. Duffy warned them.

The defense lawyers said the potential jury pool for five men arrested has been prejudiced by information — some of it bogus or otherwise inadmissible as evidence — leaked to reporters by investigators or government officials.

"It's trial by leak, trial by press conference," said Leonard Weinglass, attorney for Nidal Ayad.

While newspapers and television stations are getting the information, the lawyers said they still have no access to basic evidence involving search warrants and their clients' statements.

"In essence, we're blind men behind a curtain fighting shadows," said lawyer Ron Kuby, representing Ibrahim Al Gabrowny.

Mr. Weinglass said he has received only a three-page inventory of items seized from Mr. Ayad after his March 10 arrest.

Their attorneys portray the suspects as religious men, family members, innocent men.

"If you could see my client in the flesh, he looks like a Rutgers chemistry graduate," Mr. Weinglass, whose client is a chemistry graduate from the New Jersey state university. "The portrayals on TV are of a bomb-throwing militant."

Mahmoud Abu Halima's attorney, Jesse Berman, said he was stunned that his client was

greeted by a camera crew when he was flown back to the United States under tight security after his arrest in Egypt, then rushed by motorcade to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters in Manhattan.

"That's what they want: Time magazine to run photos of the four defendants," Mr. Berman said. "If there never was a trial, they'd be happy. They can't be doing better than they are now. It's all downhill from here."

But the lawyers' complaint that the leaks are poisoning potential jurors are challenged by attorneys representing the news media.

"That refrain is a constant one heard from defense counsel," said Richard Winfield, a New York lawyer who represents the Associated Press and other media. "I can think of cases with far more coverage for far longer time which produced juries who acquitted defendants."

Among the several damaging leaks cited by the defense attorneys:

A report saying Mr. Salamah and another suspect were seen together at a gasoline station the morning of the explosion. "It's completely untrue," said Mr. Precht.

Reports of a bank account shared by Mr. Salamah and Mr. Ayyad that was used to funnel foreign funds. "You're going to find out there was no foreign money," said Mr. Weinglass.

Mr. Kuby has another gripe. His client, Mr. Elgabrowny, has never been charged in the bombing, yet he's behind bars without bail. His crime: Scuffing with two FBI agents executing a search warrant at his apartment.

The United States is Egypt's

close ally but many Egyptians still harbour deep suspicion about the West because of its support for Israel and what they see as its hostility to Islam.

In the light of his many nationalities, his permanent residence in the U.S. with his wife and children, the presence of his work and all his financial interests there, the complete cut-off of his ties with Egypt since 1980 and his entry as a foreigner, his effectiveness nationality is American," Mr. Sedki said.

Al-Saab newspaper, owned by the fundamentalist-leaning Socialist Labour Party, again accused the government of swapping Mr. Abu Halima for Sheikh Abu Rahman's deportation, challenging government statements to the contrary.

"This was a position not seen in Egypt's most servile days.

Mr. Abu Halima left the United States just after the bombing and entered Egypt from Saudi Arabia on March 11. He was detained in his hometown on March 14 and flew back to New York on March 24.

Mr. Sedki gave the number of the German travel document Mr. Abu Halima had used to enter Egypt as a foreigner and cited international law as saying that Mr. Abu Halima's citizenship and long residence in the United States meant he was no longer Egyptian.

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Al-Saab newspaper, owned by the fundamentalist-leaning Socialist Labour Party, again accused the government of swapping Mr. Abu Halima for Sheikh Abu Rahman's deportation, challenging government statements to the contrary.

"This was a position not seen in Egypt's most servile days.

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Mr. Sedki gave the number of the German travel document Mr. Abu Halima had used to enter Egypt as a foreigner and cited international law as saying that Mr. Abu Halima's citizenship and long residence in the United States meant he was no longer Egyptian.

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Home News

Travel warning to Jordan is lifted

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials Sunday welcomed the lifting of one-month-old U.S. warning to American nationals travelling to Jordan and said it has removed a cloud from the otherwise warming up American-Jordanian relations.

"It is welcome news and we are happy with it," said Mahmoud Al Sharif, the Information Minister. "The retraction of the travel advisory puts things back on the track that they should be."

Peter Kovach, the U.S. embassy spokesman, confirmed that the mission had early this month received "a one-line cable" from Washington notifying it that the advisory had been lifted.

He declined to elaborate.

The travel warning "was a mistake in the first place and we don't know how it was made," a government source said. "Now that they have lifted it, we are satisfied that the entire episode is behind us."

Officials and tour operators meanwhile, differed on the impact of the advisory.

Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat said the effect was minimal and there was no major cancellation of group tours, but travel agents said they suffered losses.

The American warning, issued on March 1, advised U.S. citizens to take precautions while travelling to and in Jordan, saying there could be a "heightened threat of terrorism."

A flurry of diplomatic contacts between Amman and Washington followed the warning, and the cancellation of the advisory was seen as the result of intense Jordanian lobbying against it.

Despite the cancellation of the advisory, a single theory as to why it was issued in the first place does not exist.

The Feb. 2 interception and arrest of two men at the Ramtha border post along with concealed weapons said to have been intended for an attack against Americans in Jordan was cited by the U.S. as the reason for the advisory.

But Jordanian officials were sceptical that such an incident alone could have prompted the warning, particularly that security authorities had established

that the purported plot was aborted and had adopted unspecified measures to follow up the affair.

Furthermore, there was no precedent to any American being hurt while visiting or staying in Jordan, and as such the travel advisory was a harsh measure to take against a country with such a record.

While some officials viewed the U.S. decision as an unjustified overreaction, others saw in the move an American attempt to send a political message, whose significance could not be readily understood or fathomed.

One theory advanced at the time was that the advisory came as a "preemptive measure" against possible backlash in Jordan resulting from the arrest of Mohammad Salameh, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin who was detained on March 4 in connection with the Feb. 2 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

The arrest of Mr. Salameh came three days after the warning was issued.

Apparently the U.S. authorities knew they were going to arrest a Jordanian in connection with the bombing, and they moved to avoid any repercussions against Americans in Jordan, according to one of the sources.

Another theory was that the advisory was a subtle form of American pressure on Jordan to accept the invitation to the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington on April 20.

American sources denied there were any ulterior motives to the advisory, maintaining that the State Department, mindful of the Dec. 22, 1988, Pan Am bombing affair in which the department was accused of "withholding advance warnings," could not but issue the advisory.

In the Feb. 2 incident at Ramtha, the two men detained were said to have confessed that they belonged to a group called Hezbollah-Palestine and were planning to use the weapons that they were found carrying against American tourists in Jordan around Feb. 20 when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was visiting the Kingdom.

Mr. Christopher was seeking to revive the stalled Arab-

Israeli peace negotiations.

"Obviously the group opposes the peace process and wanted to stage the attack at a time when the focus of international media would have been on Jordan with the visit of Mr. Christopher," said a Palestinian source.

British embassy officials in Amman, meanwhile, dismissed reports that London had also issued a similar travel advisory to British nationals.

"No such warning was issued," said a British diplomat.

Mr. Hikmat, the tourism minister, Sunday welcomed the lifting of the American advisory, which he said was "totally groundless since there was nothing in Jordan that posed any danger to anyone."

Asked whether tourism to Jordan suffered as a result of the warning and whether there were any long-term repercussions on the Kingdom's second largest foreign exchange earner, Mr. Hikmat said:

"As far as we know there was no major impact, there was no major cancellation by tour groups, and I don't think there are any long-term effects."

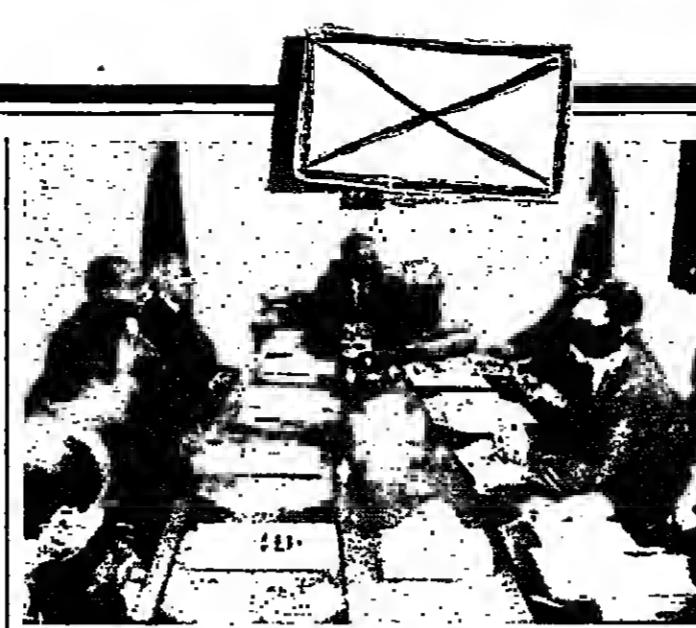
The minister, speaking in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, conceded, however, that "a few tour operators might have suffered small losses."

But some travel agents said the impact was quite visible on European tourism to Jordan. "Jordan does not normally have any large number of American tourists," said an official at a leading travel agency. "But there was a negative impact of the warning on European tourism to Jordan."

According to the tour operator, who preferred not to be named, the travel advisory came at a time when European travel agents were releasing their brochures and tour programmes for the season.

"As a result of the warning, Jordan was not included in the programmes of many agents in Europe, and this will take a few months to be rectified," the official told the Jordan Times.

"Airlines said there were some cancellations of tour groups coming to Jordan, but, as one of them put it, 'not to the extent of resulting in any large losses.'



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday meets with participants to the conference on medical sciences held Saturday and Sunday at the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) (Petra photo)

Crown Prince meets with medical sciences experts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his office Sunday participants to a conference organised by the Arab Society for Developing Medical Sciences, at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), April 3-4.

Prince Hassan told the members of the group of the evaluation of the higher education policies in Jordan.

The Crown Prince called on academic institutions and universities to take the initiative in linking the work of universities in quantity and quality to the needs of the society and to take into consideration the economic factors and the continued political changes sweeping the Arab region.

The group included deans and professors of faculties of medicine at Jordanian, Iraqi, Syrian, Egyptian, Lebanese and Bahraini universities, in addition to representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Arab and International Universities Federation.

The group briefed Prince Hassan on the debates which took

Tax no more

DUE to what appeared to be popular acceptance of a proposed tax on polygamy, first reported in the Jordan Times April 1 issue, it was decided that the details of a good secret should not be revealed right away. That is why perhaps it has taken us this long to disclose that the whole story headlined "Over and above Marital Scags: New tax," was our way of making an April fool's joke for this year.

It might be totally true that not many of our legislators would ever be ready to introduce a "polygamy tax" into their House.

But judging from the reaction this newspaper received during the past few days, the honourable gentlemen had better think twice, thrice or "poly-times." Happy April fools to all.

Population experts review growth danger in region

By a Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Population Conference, jointly organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), opened its proceedings Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Forming part of the regional preparation for the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in September, the five-day conference in Amman started examining key population-related issues in the Arab countries.

Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the conference Sunday adopted its agenda containing the key population issues in the Arab World: population growth and structure; population policies and programmes; population, environment and development; population distribution and internal migration; international migration; women and development and family planning; health and family well-being.

The conference elected Munir Al Masri of Jordan chairman of the senior officials and experts meeting, which will continue until April 6 and will be followed immediately by a ministerial meeting April 7-8.

Tharaya Obaid, chief of the Social Development and Population Division at ESCWA declared that elaborating population policies in the Arab World is not an easy task, let alone executing, evaluating and modernising it.

Citing the example of the Palestinian people expelled from

These countries enjoy — but for how much longer? — financial assets which sustain high fertility.

Everywhere else, resources are limited and the economic future uncertain; therefore, already confronted with the many problems caused by demographic growth, these countries will face them on a much larger scale at the turn of the century if fertility does not decline sufficiently, according to the paper.

Women's Union seeks consensus election of administrative panel

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Attempts to achieve a general consensus to elect 7-11 administrative Committee members representative of the full spectrum of the Women's Union in Jordan (WUJ) are underway to avoid resorting to elections, WUJ sources said.

"We have a particular interest in obtaining an Administrative Committee by acclamation," said Da'da Ma'th, a member of the present WUJ Administrative Committee. "If discussions are not fruitful, we will then resort to elections."

Competition over the 7-11 seats of the WUJ Administrative Committee, expected to take place next Friday, April 9, is divided among 32 candidates.

Out of the 787 members who represent the General Committee, 430 members, who paid the annual JD 2 subscription fee, are eligible to vote.

Though WUJ interior regulations provide for the election of 7 to 11 members, the committee usually opts for nine members in the current case.

The committee's members, who are now holding extensive meetings with the candidates themselves to decide on the most eligible among them, insist that if an unanimous agreement is reached, then every elected member will represent a different political stream.

The WUJ was dissolved in 1986 and was replaced by the General women's Union. WUJ resumed its functions in 1989 as the general democratic trend swept into the Kingdom.

"Conflicts and disputes were characterising women's efforts throughout the years," said Ms. Zayadin. "Power struggles and

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dissensions that reflect the parties' life in Jordan now, and incoherent collective women's actions are all playing against any substantial progress in the women's movement in the country," she maintained.

Ms. Zayadin, who described the union's activities vis-a-vis political issues and reviewed the WUJ's donations to the intifada children and the Iraqi people, admitted that there has been a clear absence of action in addressing women's issues in Jordan.

"We cannot isolate our activities from the general frustration that overwhelm the country," she said.

"However, several attempts were made in this direction such as the recently founded Book Club... we need strenuous efforts to push women towards serious action," Ms. Zayadin stressed.

She added that leading women personalities should work to attract more women into the row of unified action.

Though WUJ includes Islamists, it has no members of the politically organised Islamic movements in its general committee.

Visiting civil aviation official meets with Jordan's air transport heads

AMMAN (Petra) — International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council head Assaad Quteit Sunday discussed with Jordanian air transport officials

ways to promote Jordan's cooperation with the organisation.

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Middle East News

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Egypt and Pakistan work together on Muslim militants

CAIRO (R) — Pakistan's interior minister will visit Egypt soon as part of an understanding to work together to prevent Egyptian Muslim militants using Pakistan's border province with Afghanistan as a base, diplomats said Sunday.

The agreement, from a meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was Pakistan's most direct response so far to charges by Egypt and other Arab states that Muslim militants waging war on them use Pakistan's Peshawar province as a refuge.

Pakistan, under increasing U.S. pressure for allegedly sponsoring terrorism, has said it will vet over the next month nearly 3,000 Arabs drawn to the province by the Afghan Mujahideen's 10-year "holy war" against a communist government in Kabul.

Pakistan Ambassador to Cairo Mohammad Wali Allah Khashgi told Reuters Mr. Sharif asked for the meeting with Mr. Mubarak while both were independently touring Germany last week.

Mr. Sharif, in an official statement sent to the Pakistani embassy in Cairo, said he informed Mr. Mubarak of Islamabad's plans to "strictly supervise" aid and relief groups in Peshawar.

"We both expressed concern at the extremist, militant activity by some elements in the region. I informed President Mubarak of the measures being taken to strictly supervise these activities," Mr. Sharif's statement said.

Torture in trade centre case

no surprise — Egyptian activist

CAIRO (R) — Charges that Egypt tortured a suspect in the bombing of New York's World Trade Centre are no surprise because "this happens always with political prisoners in Egypt," a local human rights group said Sunday.

Egyptian officials declined comment on accusations made in New York by Mohammad Abu Halima, whose brother he was told over the same month they would be implying the torture had been without any supervision.

Mr. Abu Halima told Reuters the Egyptian authorities beat his brother, burned him with cigarettes on most of his body, including his genitals, gave him electric shocks and threatened to rape his wife and mother and kill his son.

Hassan Bahaeddin, chairman of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, told Reuters Sunday: "This is expected. I'm not surprised that they tortured Mahmoud Abu Halima this way."

"This happens always with political prisoners in Egypt and these methods will continue to happen in the future unless the state changes its policy."

"Torture methods used by the Egyptian authorities against political prisoners is our daily work. Sometimes they torture even innocent people who have no links to Muslim fundamentalists just because they are suspicious of them," Mr. Bahaeddin added.

He said all the torture methods mentioned by Mr. Abu Halima — beating, burning cigarettes, electrifying sensitive organs in their bodies including genitals, and threats to rape the suspect's female relatives — were in common use in Egypt.

Egyptian Mahmud Abu Halima, 33, was arrested at his parents' home in Kafr Al Dawwar near Alexandria on March 14. He is accused of masterminding a blast that killed six and injured 1,000 in the New York skyscraper on Feb. 26.

Speaking after a visit to his brother's prison, Mahmud, 29, said Egyptian officials stripped his brother and blindfolded him during his captivity, beat him

Marine convicted of misconduct in Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

LT.-Gen. Fheid meanwhile sent a letter to King Hussein in reply to a letter the King sent to him on the occasion of his retirement on Saturday.

Gen. Fheid thanked the King for the care rendered to him and lauded the King's role in supporting and developing the PSD.

"I pride myself in belonging to the Hashemite leadership which became an example to be followed in the kind norms and noble values and good deeds," Gen. Fheid said.

"I was keen, since I had gained your sublime confidence and through all the posts I occupied and all the fields I worked in, to

be a loyal soldier, keeping my pledge and promise. Despite all I have sought and pledged to reach to rise up to the level of responsibility.

I was not one day satisfied that any effort, no matter how great, would be up to the level of your sublime confidence, which is dearer than every effort and greater than any loyalty," he said.

"That's why I always felt that I am but a soldier who is exerting modest efforts in an attempt to exceed the limits of every attainable and possible, to be able to satisfy Your Majesty... and if I managed to do that, it is because of God's grace, and I do not claim the credit for it, and if I was unfortunate in achieving it, that is because it is the limitation of my capabilities," he said.

Summit produces \$1.6b aid package

(Continued from page 1)

ing." They were trailed closely by half a dozen police boats.

The Boris Yeltsin that President Clinton met with today did not look, act or talk like a politician on the ropes. Strobe Talbott, the president's chief adviser on Russia and U.S. note-taker at the session, said Saturday night.

Mr. Clinton was very impressed with "How vigorous, how ready to go President Yeltsin seems to be," Mr. Talbott said.

As Mr. Yeltsin climbed into his limousine at the end of a two-hour meeting, Mr. Clinton remarked that Mr. Yeltsin struck him "as a fighter," Mr. Talbott said. "The chemistry between the two was very good."

The two leaders discussed the economic package — a first installment expected to open the way for increased aid from other industrialized democracies as well — at a grilled salmon dinner Saturday night.

Mr. Kozyrev said Sunday that if Mr. Yeltsin did not survive his struggle with hardliners at home, "that will mean, to my mind, a disaster."

The aid package is much bigger than had been expected in the run-up to the summit, with reports suggesting it would be in the range of \$300 million to \$1 billion.

It includes \$215 million to pay for the dismantling of Russian nuclear weapons and \$6 million to resettle Red Army officers returning from the Baltic states and other parts of the former Soviet empire.

The resettlement funds will be used to build 450 houses for officers who are being demobilized on their return to Russia over the next 12 to 16 months and provide employment training to ease their transition to private life.

A fifth suspect, alleged to have been involved in the same incident, is in a serious condition in hospital in Canada after having tried to hang himself while in custody in Somalia, Captain Karen Mair told Reuters.

She said two military investigators had been sent to Somalia from Canada to investigate the death of Shidane Omar Aroni, who was found beaten unconscious in a holding cell at the Canadian forces camp in Belet Uen, northeast of Mogadishu, on March 16.

On another front, lawyers for Islamic Group lawyers Moustapha Zayyat and Mukhtar Noul said the appointed judge, Ahmad Izzat Ishamwi, "holds hostile sentiments and aggressive convictions against militants."

"In all the previous trials he handled, he issued guilty verdicts against the militants," Mr. Zayyat told Reuters.

"But despite his appointment, we decided to attend not to leave a chance for the government to tamper with the case," he added.

"We don't want to leave the floor open for the government to plot anything against Sheikh Omar. Our presence makes these chances less."

Mr. Ishamwi has raised objections about the attendance of the press at the trial in Fayum, Sheikh Abdul Rahman's home town, on Tuesday.

The government said last month it had cancelled non-guilty verdicts passed on Sheikh Abdul Rahman and 49 other alleged militants in 1990 after anti-government violence in Fayum.

SECRETARY WANTED

A commercial firm on Al Mahatta Street is in need of a secretary. The applicant should be able to read and write in English, with good typing skills, and preferably be living in an area close to the firm.

Please call tel. 654301, for three days only

King reaffirms Jordan's commitment

(Continued from page 1)

MOGADISHU (AP) — A Marine Saturday became the first U.S. serviceman convicted of misconduct during Operation Restore Hope after pleading guilty to stealing two canes from a vendor, then punching him when he gave chase.

The Marine, Larry T. Thomas, was sentenced to two months confinement and a month at hard labour. He also received a fine and a reduction in rank.

Mr. Thomas and two other Marines were leaving Mogadishu's main airport in a military vehicle when the vendor approached, said Marine Colonel Fred Peek, a U.S. military spokesman here.

Mr. Thomas grabbed two canes as the vehicle drove off and when the vendor caught up with the car, Thomas punched him several times in face, Col. Peek said.

Mr. Thomas is expected to be shipped back to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, to serve his time.

In an unrelated case, Marine gunnery sergeant Harry Conde, 33, faces a court-martial Monday on assault charges for shooting Somali youth who swiped the sunglasses from his face. Sgt. Conde has said he thought he was being attacked and shot in self-defence.

In other developments, an Australian soldier became the 16th fatality among the U.S.-led coalition forces who arrived Dec. 9, to safeguard food shipments to the starving in this Horn of Africa country.

The Australian, Shannon McAlpine, was killed in an apparently accidental shooting in Baidoa Friday night when he was times during the intense torture that he doesn't know what he said or did. But he does recall being forced to sign something, but since he was blindfolded he doesn't know what he signed," Mr. Mohammad said.

"We cannot comment on this report," an official of the Egyptian Interior Ministry told Reuters on Sunday.

With a wooden club, and subjected him to electric shocks.

"Mahmoud said that there were times during the intense torture that he doesn't know what he said or did. But he does recall being forced to sign something, but since he was blindfolded he doesn't know what he signed," Mr. Mohammad said.

Mr. Mohammad said, "We cannot comment on this report," an official of the Egyptian Interior Ministry told Reuters on Sunday.

McAlpine, 21, was hit in the right side of the chest with a bullet and died at the Australian medical unit in Baidoa.

Eight Americans, five Belgians and two Frenchmen also have died since the relief mission began.

Canadians sent home

Four Canadian soldiers were flown back to Ottawa Sunday after being arrested for the possible murder in detention of a Somali man last month, a Canadian military spokesman said.

A fifth suspect, alleged to have been involved in the same incident, is in a serious condition in hospital in Canada after having tried to hang himself while in custody in Somalia, Captain Karen Mair told Reuters.

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Israeli soldiers

(Continued from page 1)

only pose further obstacles to Middle East peace talks already stalled over the deportations.

The closure has kept 100,000 Palestinians from jobs in Israel and disrupted Israel's farming and building industries (see page 7).

The jobs are a vital source of income for the Palestinians.

Arab physicians said Saturday

the closure has cut off the Palestinians in the occupied territories

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hospitals of Arab East Jerusalem

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Grand National turns into grand farce

Prestigious race declared void after false starts

LIVERPOOL (Agencies) — Britain's Grand National Steeplechase, one of the world's great sporting events, turned from a racing extravaganza into a fiasco of false starts and red flags. Race lovers called it a "national disgrace".

The famously gruelling contest — a sporting and betting institution — was declared void Saturday after runners galloped off down the course thinking the race was on when it was really off because of a second false start.

As bookmakers faced the gigantic task of returning millions of bets, officials announced a review of starting procedures after one of the darkest days in British horse racing history.

"National disgrace", "national disaster" and "grand farce" was how the tabloid press saw the spectacle.

Peter Greenall, chairman of the Aintree Course, said there was only a "small chance" that this year's race could be re-run.

The race ran into difficulties from the outset when a protest by animal rights activists helped up proceedings. Then there was trouble with the tape at the starting line, a false start followed and the 39 runners assembled again.

A second false start was declared when the tape tangled with horses and jockeys, but most of the runners charged off oblivious after a so-called recall man charged with flagging them down apparently failed to do so.

The recall flag was not shown the second time. It was an error. The flagman was in the correct position. The race has been declared void in the most regrettable of circumstances," clerk of the

course Rod Fabricius said.

Officials waving red flags tried in vain to stall the race and several runners made it to the post, to the anger and bewilderment of the 50,000-strong crowd and the millions of television viewers who had tuned into the racing showpiece.

The face of "winning jockey" John White crumpled with anguish when he realised it was a phantom victory.

"I'm quite certain that additional contingency measures and precautions will be taken to avoid a similar incident," Fabricius said. "Undoubtedly the stoker could have used a flag start after the (starting) tapes failed the first time."

At the end of the second circuit, "victory" went to 50-1 outsider Esha Ness with white in the saddle, who held off the fast-finishing Irish raider Caherilla.

As the realisation dawned that the race was a shambles, trainers and jockeys were incensed and distraught.

Trainer Jenny Pitman stormed into the weighing room in tears and shouted: "You must stop this race what are you doing? My hoody horse has already gone one circuit. I don't want to win the National like this."

Follow trainer David Elsworth said: "It was a shambles and a great tragedy for racing."

The starter, captain Keith Brown, was booted by the crowd when he walked towards the weighing room from the start and had to be escorted by police as the crowd screamed abuse.

Bookmaker, who face a night-

mare having to pay back stake money from millions of bets, appealed for calm when the betting shops open Monday morning.

Spokesman Wally Pyrah for Coral's bookmakers said: "It will be bedlam with people queuing up to get their money back."

Champion jockey Peter Scudamore, rider of Captain Dibble, said: "People have suggested we turn up next Saturday and do it again but we can't. We will be the laughing stock of the world."

Grand National's history of drama, tragedy and treachery

No other race in the British horseracing calendar has produced as much drama, thrills and controversy as the Grand National Steeplechase.

Saturday's debacle, when the 4 1/2-mile (7.2-kilometre) race was declared void after jockeys failed to hear a false start call, is the lastest in a history of dramas going back to when it started in 1836.

Since then there have been stories of heroism, tragedy and even treachery.

In 1885, a former winner, Zedone, was poisoned shortly before the race to prevent him winning.

In 1924, a former plough horse, Master Roben, won the race.

Two years later, the one-eyed Glenside was the only horse in 13 horses to have been no fatalities since the most feared jump, Becher's Brook, was modified in 1989 by levelling the landing side.

The race has been a target for animal rights protesters who claim it is too gruelling for the horses.

The race is some 10 minutes long and the horses must clear 30 fences, some with a deep drop on the other side. In the last 25 years, 13 horses have died although there have been no fatalities since the most feared jump, Becher's Brook, was modified in 1989 by levelling the landing side.

The race has been a target for animal rights protesters who claim it is too gruelling for the horses.

It's been a great tour in Asia and it's always fun for me to play in Asia because tennis is really starting to pick up here," Chang said. "I like to try and encourage them."

Chang will now turn his attention to the Japan Open starting in Tokyo Monday where he is seeded third behind Courier and fellow-American Peter Sampras.

Mansdorf is seeded eighth.



Michael Chang (right) and Amos Mansdorf raise their winners' plate at the Salem Open tournament Sunday (AFP photo)

Chang wins hard-fought match at Salem Open

OSAKA (R) — Michael Chang won a popular victory Sunday with a hard-fought 6-4, 6-4 win over Amos Mansdorf in the final of the Salem Open.

The second-seeded Chinese-American, who has been the focus of thrilled autograph hunters in this western Japanese city, won a fierce baseline battle in which neither player was able to win a serve in the first five games of the first set.

"It's been a great tour in Asia and it's always fun for me to play in Asia because tennis is really starting to pick up here," Chang said. "I like to try and encourage them."

Chang will now turn his attention to the Japan Open starting in Tokyo Monday where he is seeded third behind Courier and fellow-American Peter Sampras.

Mansdorf is seeded eighth.

Graf, Sanchez Vicario in final

Top seed Steffi Graf dethroned defending champion Gabriela Sabatini and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario rallied to beat Jennifer Capriati in semifinals at the \$750,000 Family Circle Cup tennis tournament Saturday.

Graf looked about to demolish the third-seeded Sabatini, then withstood a remarkable comeback by the Argentine to prevail 6-0, 7-6.

Sanchez came within one game of being knocked out by the fourth-seeded Capriati, but roared back for a 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 win.

Graf goes for her 71st career title on the same clay court where she claimed her very first in 1986.

Sanchez is looking to notch number 10. The Spanish speedster won her ninth title two weeks ago when she beat Graf at the Lipton Championships.

Sabatini, who won this tournament the past two years, at first appeared paralysed by Graf, who ran out to a huge 6-0, 5-1 advantage.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 5, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

how you would like your association to trend in the future and make agreements.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what you can do to uphold your part of any workload that is jointly with fellow associates and you get much respect from them.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the day to retire rarely much within yourself or with a confidential advisor and privately work out arrangements for the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever tensions have existed at your dwelling should be reconciled now so that there is more harmony and accord in the future during the day.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have many opportunities today to communicate and put your points across to others in your best and most practical, sensible manner.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a good common sense awareness of what to do today so that you will be able to increase the good things in your life, with the aid of an expert.

PISCES: (Feb. 20 to March 20) Think about the various personal longings that you have and make some overt actions to make them an actual part of your daily existence.

Milan saved by 2 goals from Lentini

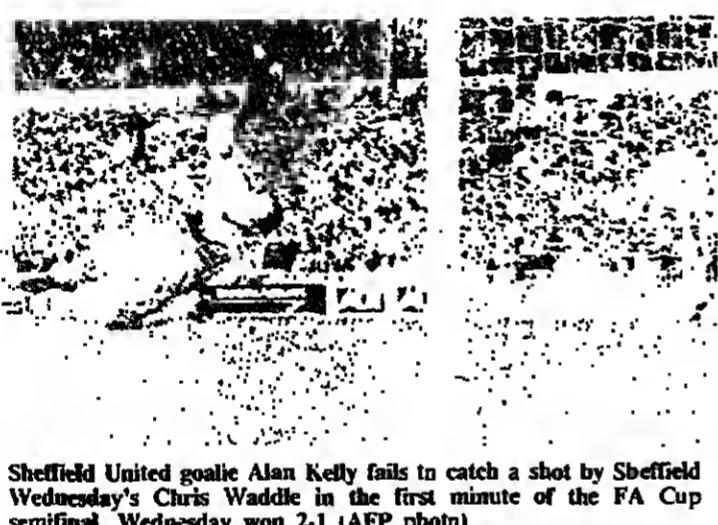
MILAN (R) — Gianluigi Lentini repaid some of his world record, 14-million-pound (\$21.47 million) transfer fee Saturday when he scored two second-half goals to earn AC Milan a face-saving 2-2 home draw against struggling Napoli.

Lentini, who has done little to justify his price tag since being bought from Torino last year, scored in the 57th minute with a spectacular overhead bicycle kick and followed that six minutes later with a more conventional effort.

His goals cancelled out Napoli's first-half scores from Antonio Careca, their Brazilian striker netting his farewell appearance at San Siro, and Roberto Poli and earned Milan a point which took them nine points clear of Inter at the top of the table.

In British soccer Mark Bright headed in a corner from United States midfielder John Harkes, scored in the 57th minute with a spectacular overhead bicycle kick and followed that six minutes later with a more conventional effort.

His goals cancelled out Napoli's first-half scores from Antonio Careca, their Brazilian striker netting his farewell appearance at San Siro, and Roberto Poli and earned Milan a point which took them nine points clear of Inter at the top of the table.



Sheffield United goalie Alan Kelly fails to catch a shot by Sheffield Wednesday's Chris Waddle in the first minute of the FA Cup semifinal. Wednesday won 2-1 (AFP photo)

minute and Alan Cork levelled for United just before half time.

In the final, also at Wembley May 15, Wednesday will meet the winner of the other semifinal between Arsenal and Tottenham.

Wednesday and Arsenal also are in the League Cup final April 18.

Rangers and Aberdeen will meet in the Scottish Cup final after semifinal victories Saturday.

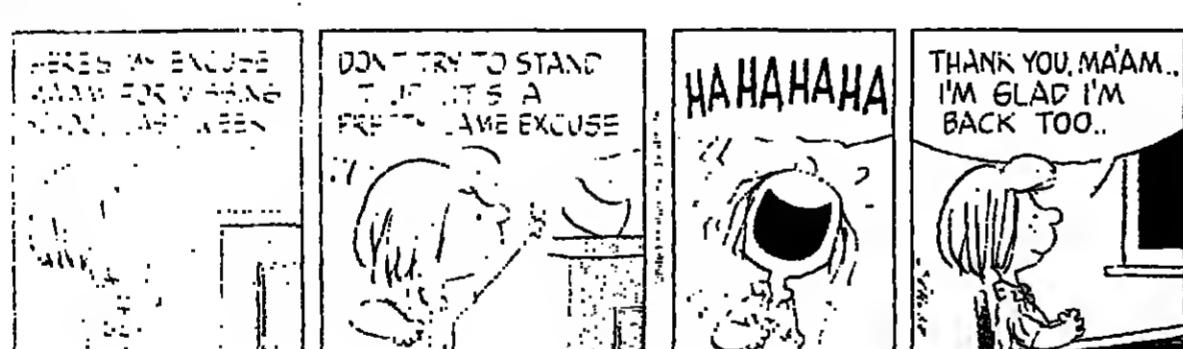
Ally McCoist netted his 52nd goal of the season for Rangers' winner in a 2-1 triumph over Hearts while Scott Booth scored the only goal in a 1-0 victory for Aberdeen over Hibernian.

In English Premier League action, struggling Oldham scored a 6-2 triumph over Wimbledon to help its fight against relegation but last place Middlesbrough look doomed after a 4-0 defeat at

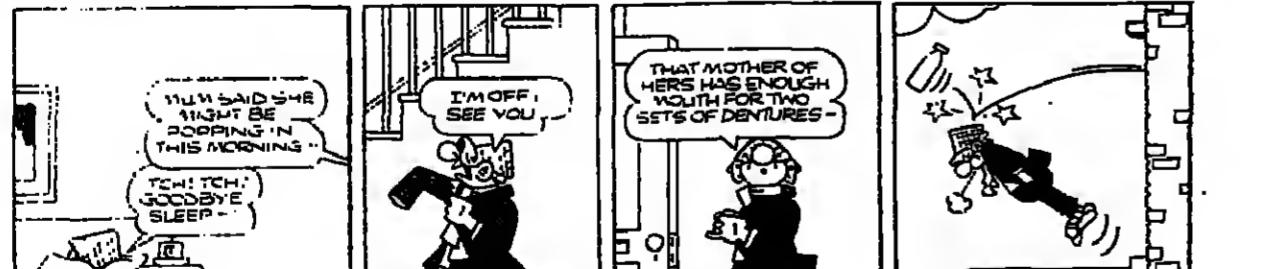
Wimbledon.

Both teams squandered numerous scoring chances during the lackluster game in Bremen.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Matt 'n' Jeff



Crash hospitalises Mansell

PHOENIX (AP) — A bad crash Saturday in practice at Phoenix International Raceway left Nigel Mansell hospitalised with a concussion that will keep the English driver from making his Indycar oval racing debut in Sunday's Valvoline 200.

Mansell also suffered a contusion to his right shoulder from the safety harness, but no other injuries were discovered after he was flown by helicopter to Good Samaritan Regional Medical Centre in Phoenix. A car scan was negative, according to Indycar officials.

Dr. Stephan Olyve, Indycar's director of medical affairs, and Dr. Alan Tyroch, the attending trauma surgeon, issued a joint statement saying Mansell would be kept overnight for observation and was expected to be released soon. Olyve added, however, that under series rules Mansell could not be cleared medically to drive in Sunday's 200-mile (322-kilometre) race.



champion Wayne Rainey (No. 1) of the U.S. and Austrian Daryl Beattie (No. 4) take a corner during the Malaysian Grand Prix at Shah Alam Circuit Sunday. Rainey won the race with a time of 44 minutes 54.102 seconds (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A ♦ Q ♦

♦ A ♦ Q ♦

♦ J 6 2

* K Q 8 4 3

WEST
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♦ 9 5 3

♦ Q 10 7 4

♦ 9 5 3

* J 7 2

* A 10 9 5

SOUTH
♦ 8 6 2

♦ K 10 6 4 2

♦ Q A 8

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The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

We are indebted to the newsletter of the Vanderbilt Bridge Club in Manhasset, N.Y., for this hand. See if you can make six hearts after the lead of a low diamond.

The bidding is particularly interesting. There are those who suggest that South's bid of three hearts is not forcing. The fallacy in that reasoning is that no one can possibly know the hand will produce exactly nine tricks at hearts, rather than eight or nine at no trump or 10 at

clubs.

hearts. The loss of bidding space

could prove very costly if South had to jump to four hearts to show a

good hand, or bid a three-card suit to force partner to bid again.

Simple souls will rely on the spade finesse for the slam and go down. However, the first problem is to attempt to avoid losing a diamond trick, so you should play the jack from dummy. If East has the queen, you are going to have to dispose of a diamond on a high club, so you will have no alternative to the spade finesse.

When the jack of diamonds wins,

your best line is to come to hand with a high diamond and lead a club toward the board. If the ace of clubs is with West the hand is made, unless East can get a diamond ruff.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1993 7

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHAMSIAH			
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170			
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN 04/04/1993			
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING FAV. VOLUME	OPENING PRICE JD	CLOSING PRICE JD
ABRA BANK	219,560	130,000	131,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	33,200	4,950	4,950
BAK OF JORDAN	27,200	23,000	23,000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	90,432	3,950	4,000
THE BAK	21,013	3,880	3,890
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	13,160	3,850	3,850
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2,185	4,380	4,370
JOHN HANCOCK SAVING & INVESTMENT	23,420	4,370	4,370
BEST ELKANH SAVING & INVESTMENT	4,631	6,210	6,210
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK FOR HOUSING	49,638	5,640	5,550
JORDAN INVESTMENT	1,208	3,720	3,720
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	115,721	4,140	4,160
JOHNSON LIFE INSURANCE	27,426	2,450	2,570
PEELADEPHIA INSURANCE	5,148	3,500	3,500
ARM LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	5,823	3,120	3,120
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	18,400	3,200	3,200
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	10,404	3,700	3,700
IRRED DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	4,641	4,620	4,620
JORDAN PETROLEUM	4,073	5,900	5,500
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	5,847	3,210	4,310
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	27,426	1,680	1,680
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	11,623	4,250	4,250
JORDAN PETROLEUM INVESTMENT	6,750	4,700	4,500
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	29,125	3,850	3,850
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER	109	1,500	1,500
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER	101,420	3,700	3,700
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMPORE HOTELS	30,423	2,420	2,410
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	27,629	1,860	1,860
JORDAN PETROLEUM	14,400	10,400	10,400
JORDAN PETROLEUM	55,020	3,700	3,700
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	688	6,950	6,800
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	6,100	6,250	6,250
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	11,623	4,250	4,250
JORDAN PETROLEUM	6,750	4,700	4,500
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,402	2,200	2,200
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	4,807	0,750	0,740
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE	13,200	12,150	12,200
AMAS ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	341,928	3,420	3,500
JORDAN LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9,384	0,920	0,920
JORDAN PETROLEUM	20,313	2,200	2,150
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	21,311	1,980	1,980
MATCHLESS STEEL INDUSTRIES	37,377	6,030	6,100
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,056	0,960	0,960
JORDAN SOCCER INDUSTRIES	6,325	1,750	1,710
JORDAN PETROLEUM	1,125	1,120	1,120
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/VIDEO	1,620	1,620	1,620
JORDAN PRECISE CONCRETE INDUSTRY	39,125	14,020	14,020
JORDAN PETROLEUM	45,154	5,580	5,680
JORDAN PETROLEUM MANUFACTURING	23,430	9,770	9,750
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	95,362	4,400	4,370
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	101,420	2,020	2,030
JORDAN PETROLEUM & FOOD PROD.	24,801	3,650	3,750
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1,201	1,201	1,201
GRAND TOTAL	1,873,740		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	114,450		
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	95,645		

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (March 29 - April 2, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar lost considerable ground against other major currencies last week. While trading activity was driven by technical considerations, which were not in favour of the dollar, the thinness of trading volume exaggerated exchange rate movements, causing the dollar's decline. The yen, on the other hand, was a major performer, as it hit new record levels against the dollar, helped by the emergence of a new market outlook against its short term direction. The U.S. unit thus ended the week 2.1 per cent lower against the mark, 2.3 per cent lower against sterling and 2.5 per cent lower against the yen.

The dollar fell against European currencies during Monday's Far East trading hours, as the mark surged against the yen. The U.S. currency continued to decline against the mark during the next two days, falling below 1.61 marks. Trading volume remained very thin, as many traders refrained from adopting new positions before the end of the month (March), which also marked the end of the Japanese fiscal year.

Reports said that the dollar had started the week on a weak technical tone. It had failed to breach resistance at 1.64 marks the previous week, at a time when many traders had substantial long dollar positions accumulated. In addition, the latest batch of U.S. economic reports had come within expectations, indicating that the pace of the U.S. recovery was not moving fast enough to justify a significant dollar rally. Indications of an easing of political tensions in Russia, and that the Bundesbank was not going to lower German interest rates after its council meeting Thursday provided traders with opportunities to sell dollars. News that the U.S. Consumer Confidence Index slipped to 62.6 per cent in March against expectations of 66 per cent further hampered the dollar. Analysts and observers remained sceptical of jumping to any conclusions over the dollar's short term direction and the state of the U.S. economic recovery, however.

As for the Japanese yen, analysts maintained that many traders and investors were starting to realise that political pressure was not the only factor that can produce a yen appreciation, as they had underestimated the impact of the fiscal stimulus package and the gigantic Japanese trade surplus. The yen, hence, started a steep appreciation against the dollar by Wednesday and continued to hit new records till the end of the week.

But the U.S. unit recovered slightly against the European currencies in late Friday trading, although it still failed to rise above 1.60 marks. It ended the week in New York at 1.5995 marks.

Confirmation that the Bundesbank did not lower German interest rates, and the release in the U.S. of the weekly jobless claims data predicated a sharp drop in the dollar Thursday, as the unemployment figures were much worse than had been expected. The dollar closed in New York at 1.5920 marks, its lowest closing level of the week.

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New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	26/3/1993	2/4/1993	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.4870	1.5215	2.32 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6335	1.5995	2.13 %
Swiss Franc	1.5133	1.4795	2.28 %
French Franc	5.5540	5.4355	2.18 %
Japanese Yen	116.55	113.75	2.46 %

USD Per STD

Euro-Currency Interest Rates	2/4/1993			
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
Currency				
U.S. Dollar	3.18	5.50	3.06	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.94	5.81	5.81	5.78
Deutsche Mark	8.25	6.75	8.18	6.93
Swiss Franc	5.13	4.25	5.18	4.43
French Franc	10.75	8.45	10.31	8.37
Japanese Yen	5.59	3.34	5.12	3.25

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 4/4/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6850	0.6870
Sterling Pound	1.0414	1.0466
Deutsche Mark	0.4284	0.4305
Swiss Franc	0.4627	0.4650
French Franc	0.1260	0.1266
Japanese Yen*	0.6018	0.6048
Dutch Guilder	0.3808	0.3827
Swedish Krona	0.0909	0.0914
Italian Lira*	0.0433	0.0435
Belgian Franc	0.2077	0.2087

* Per 100

Israel moves to reduce Palestinian workers

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government took steps Sunday to reduce the number of Palestinians from the occupied territories working in Israel.

A senior official told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting that a team had started work in the labour ministry on replacing Palestinian workers with Israelis.

The decision was prompted by a wave of Arab attacks that killed 13 Israelis last month.

Last week Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin indefinitely closed the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.75 million Palestinians, to curb the violence and give Israelis a feeling of greater security.

Azeris muster forces to fight back

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan mustered fresh fighting strength Sunday to repel Armenian forces it said had captured nearly a tenth of its territory.

An Azeri television journalist in the capital Baku said the government was hastily assembling fresh combat units to repel a major Armenian offensive.

"New battalions are being formed, including a women's battalion," the journalist said by telephone.

The former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan are locked in an undeclared war over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. More than 2,500 people have been killed in five years of fighting.

Azeri radio said President Abulfaz Elchibey, who declared a two-month state of emergency throughout the country Friday, had appointed 21 military commanders of cities and districts.

Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said Saturday that Armenian forces had seized the western Azeri town of Kelbadzhar and controlled a broad swathe of surrounding territory.

It said Armenia had succeeded in punching a new land corridor through Azeri territory to Nagorno-Karabakh, and almost a tenth of Azerbaijan was in enemy hands.

U.S. may help Russia gain access to arms markets

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — The United States believes it can and should help open new markets to Russia's arms industry and this is among the subjects to be discussed Sunday between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

Fears have grown in the West that as Russia plunges deeper into economic and political chaos, Moscow will be tempted to sell arms indiscriminately for hard currency.

"That's something we're looking at very specifically, how can we give them access to legitimate markets so they don't have to go out and shop their stuff around in illegitimate markets," the administration official told reporters.

"I think there are several ways we can look at doing that and that's one of the subjects we'll be talking about tomorrow," he said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, briefed reporters during the first day of summit talks between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin, which focused on ways to help Russia make the transition to free markets and democracy.

Mr. Clinton has made stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems a priority of his administration. U.S. officials acknowledge that Russia's arms industry is a lucrative export earner.

These officials have indicated they are not trying to stop the Russian sales altogether, just limit them to the least destabilizing kinds of weapons and keep them from governments the United States regards as renegade.

Russian officials recently asked Washington to help them gain access to appropriate arms markets, which they say are now closed to them.

"We realize that they have some legitimate needs for access to high technology markets but they have to stay within the boundaries and that's very important," the U.S. official said, adding: "That's what the trade-off is. That's what the partnership is."

Russia's sale of an advanced submarine to Iran was a major concern to Washington. Some U.S. defence experts said it would greatly increase Tehran's capability in the Gulf.

Several months ago, however, Mr. Yeltsin suggested that his country could stop producing military submarines.

Central Intelligence Agency Director James Woolsey recently told Congress about concerns that Russia was pursuing the sale of missiles that violate an international accord designed to limit transfers of destabilizing arms to regions like the Middle East.

One sale involved rocket engine technology to India.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Saturday that Russia has promised the United States that Moscow will not follow through on certain sales.

He refused to go into detail but told the Cable News Network (CNN) Newsweek Saturday programme: "We received indications from them with respect to various sales that they won't make... their cooperation has been good up to this point and we're continuing to negotiate with them on other sensitive matters around the world."

Mr. Elchibey, head of the nationalist Popular Front, was elected president last June, three months after his predecessor resigned in disgrace over a series of defeats in the Karabakh conflict.

In Friday's emergency decree, Mr. Elchibey, 53, ordered a curfew and banned political activity by parties and movements that might destabilize the situation in the Transcaucasian state.

Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency reported from Baku that the Azeri town of Kazakh and Taz, near the Armenian border in northwestern Azerbaijan, had come under Armenian artillery fire. It said three people had been killed.

The journalist, who visited Kelbadzhar region Saturday, said there was intensive fighting there and thousands of refugees, some driving sheep and cattle, were trying to flee.

Azerbaijan claims Armenian regular forces and Russian troops launched a two-pronged attack on Kelbadzhar on March 27 to drive a new land corridor through Nagorno-Karabakh.

Most of Azeri's population is Azeri, but it is surrounded by Azeri territory and is officially ruled by Baku.

Armenia denies its regular troops are involved, saying the

fighting is being conducted by self-defence forces from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Felix Mamikyan, Armenia's permanent representative in Moscow, quoted Karabakh officials as saying they launched the latest offensive because Azeri forces were using Kelbadzhar as a base for shelling Armenian and Karabakh territory.

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Armenia denies its regular troops are involved, saying the

"About 150 civilians have died on the mountain pass as a result of the shelling and frostbite," the statement said.

Turkey said Saturday it had bated the passage of European aid to energy-starved Armenia.

"As long as blood continues to be shed, Turkey cannot allow Armenia to be aided through its territory even though it is humanitarian aid," government spokesman Akin Gonen said in a statement.

"Wheat delivery has been stopped. Any other passage will not be permitted," he said.

Mr. Gonen said Turkey had contacted Russian, U.S. and French leaders and diplomats over Armenian attacks on Kelbadzhar.

Azerbaijan, which is not party to the CIS treaty, has traditional close ties to NATO member Turkey.

An Azeri Defence Ministry statement said about 40,000 civilians had been evacuated from the battle zone, but 15,000 more had been trapped in the south of Kelbadzhar.

Refugees were trekking north along the only road out of Kelbadzhar.

An Armenian fighter takes aim before using his anti-tank weapon



against Azeri positions in Nagorno-Karabakh (AFP photo)

U.N. resumes aid to Sarajevo; food convoy reaches Srebrenica

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations resumed aid flights to Sarajevo Sunday and sent a convoy to the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica to deliver food and evacuate refugees.

The air bridge to the Bosnian capital was bailed more than two weeks ago after a British cargo plane was fired on by an anti-aircraft battery as it prepared to land.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia said 17 flights, each carrying 10 tonnes of food, were expected during the day and 16 Monday.

The flow of essential supplies in Sarajevo coincided with renewed efforts to alleviate the plight of 40,000 Muslims blockaded in Srebrenica since the start of Bosnia's civil war a year ago.

The U.N. did not know whether Muslims or Serbs were responsible for the outbreak.

At a meeting in New York Saturday, the Security Council renewed a call for more U.N. troops to be stationed in eastern Bosnia, where Serb forces made

big advances against Muslim settlements earlier this month.

It did not respond to a plea by Saeko Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, for U.N. forces to turn the Srebrenica area into a safe haven guarded by U.N. troops.

The Bosnian Serb parliament at the weekend rejected part of a peace plan for Bosnia that would redraw the former Yugoslav republic's ethnic map because the Serbs would be forced to give up land they now hold.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he believed the Serbs might still accept the Bosnian peace plan drawn up by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and indicated it might be adjusted to meet Serb concerns.

Hardline Bosnian Serb deputies meeting in the southern Bosnian town of Bileca ignored warnings that rejection of the maps proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen could bring even tougher U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic denied that the parliament had completely abandoned the Vance-Owen plan.

Rocard takes Socialist reins with political coup

PARIS (R) — French presidential hopeful Michel Rocard, staging a political coup, has seized control of the Socialist Party, battered after an electoral rout by centrist foes.

His weekend putsch reopened splits among rival factions and deepened the party's disarray.

Mr. Rocard managed to oust party leader and longstanding rival Laurent Fabius during a stormy meeting of the party's governing committee that ended early Sunday.

Mr. Rocard was named to head a temporary leadership board that will guide the party until an emergency congress in July and offer the former prime minister a platform from which to direct his campaign to the 1997 presidential election.

While Mr. Rocard's move could strengthen his political hand, opponents said his bare-knuckle methods threatened the party's breakup.

Mr. Fabius and his supporters, as well as leaders of several other key Socialist factions, denounced Mr. Rocard and refused to join the interim leadership.

"This is a dirty bit of political business," Mr. Fabius said after his ouster.

"This putsch reflects very serious rifts that will be badly received by Socialist activists," Mr. Fabius' supporters and former Interior Minister Paul Quiles said.

Party grandees and former government ministers Pierre Mauroy and Louis Mermaz declined to join Mr. Rocard, and up-and-coming militants close to European Commission President Jacques Delors threatened to oust him from the party's defeat.

But the deep antagonisms that Mr. Rocard's coup revealed raised questions about the party's very future and its value as a political springboard.

"He seems to have inherited an empty shell," the weekly newspaper Le Journal Du Dimanche said Sunday.

"We expected more of the 'big bang,'" said Francois Hollande, head of Mr. Delors' supporters within the party, referring to Mr. Rocard's call for a "big bang" to pull together a broad coalition of left-wing and centrist voters.

"If there was a leading Socialist candidate for president yesterday, there is no longer one today," Mr. Hollande said.

Mr. Hollande and other "quadrats" so named because many of them are in their 40s, had hoped party leaders would keep their political knives sheathed and concentrate on pinpointing the reasons for their rout in last month's general election.

Voters punished the Socialists for record unemployment and financial scandals, cutting their seats in parliament to 54 from 249.

Spurred by the approach of the 1995 presidential election and the task of rebuilding the crumbling left, Mr. Rocard could ill afford to await a year-end congress proposed by Mr. Fabius.

"When a party suffers such a crushing defeat, the leadership must be called into question," said former Industry Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a follower of Mr. Rocard ally Lionel Jospin.

Even before last month's elections Mr. Rocard blamed Mr. Mitterrand and the Socialists' plight in a clear effort to dodge fallout from the party's defeat.

The unseating of Mr. Fabius, who helped Mr. Mitterrand sidetrack Mr. Rocard before his 1981 presidential victory, leaves the head of state even more isolated than before.

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Los Angeles prepares for new riots

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Calmly and methodically, with military precision and business savvy, the city is preparing for the possibility of another round of rioting.

From the police with their new riot gear to the shopkeepers with an extra gun under the counter, everyone seems to have a contingency plan for the day verdicts are announced in the second trial of four police officers for beating black motorist Rodney King.

"We feel that the only way to handle this thing is to be aware, in a mature way, and be prepared," said John Cenac of Jones Lumber Co., which plans to hire more security guards for verdict day.

Jones Lumber is in south-central Los Angeles, the heart of three days of rioting last year that followed the officers' acquittal on most charges in state court. The violence left more than 50 people dead and caused \$1 billion in damage.

N. Korea accuses IAEA inspectors of bias

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea, defending its refusal to accept further nuclear inspections, accused the United Nations' inspection agency Sunday of unfair bias against the Communists.

A statement by an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman said the United States was trying to stifle North Korea, and that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was acting under U.S. manipulation.

"The IAEA must stop acting in a despicable manner, reading the faces of big powers, but carry on its activities independently according to its statute and regulations," said the statement, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, monitored by Tokyo.

North Korea announced last month it was withdrawing from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty after the IAEA demanded special inspections of two additional sites to help clear up what

Kozyrev predicts chaos if Yeltsin falls

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Sunday predicted "chaos and disintegration" for his country if President Boris Yeltsin was ousted from power.

Mr. Kozyrev, accompanying Mr. Yeltsin at his Vancouver summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said in a television interview the Russian leader's conservative enemies, if they took power, would try to restore the Soviet Union, "which is impossible."

"Yes, back to the cold war," the minister said on the NBC programme *Meet The Press*.

This attempt will fail but it will cost dearly to Russia and probably to the outside world, and the most probable outcome after a short period of dictatorship... will be just chaos and

disintegration of the country," Mr. Kozyrev said, speaking in English.

Mr. Kozyrev, who has pursued a strongly pro-Western policy, is along with Mr. Yeltsin one of the principal targets for criticism in the conservative Russian legislature, which came close to impeaching the president last week.

Mr. Clinton is due Sunday to announce details of an aid package for Russia as part of an attempt by Western leaders to bolster Mr. Yeltsin's economic reform programme.

Mr. Kozyrev said it was hard to predict the outcome of a referendum called in Russia for April 25 as a vote of confidence on Mr. Yeltsin, but said the president had received a warm reception in the city of Magadan on his way to

the summit.

"Mr. Kozyrev described as a 'tragic mistake' the decision by Bosnian Serbs to reject the peace plan for the former Yugoslav republic put forward by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

But, expressing apparent scepticism about tough action against the Serbs, he called for 'pragmatic approaches' to what he described as an alarming situation in Bosnia.

Poll shows Danish support for Maastricht

COPENHAGEN (R) — Support is steady for a "yes" vote in Denmark's second referendum on the European Community's Maastricht Treaty, according to an opinion poll published Sunday.

The survey by the Gallup Institute, published in the daily Berlingske Tidende, showed that 48 per cent of those questioned would vote "yes" in the May 18 referendum while 27 per cent favoured "no" and 25 per cent were undecided or would not vote.

The poll, in which 1,014 Danes were interviewed between March 26 and April 1, indicated that support for the treaty had stabilised at a lower level after a period of gradual decline.

In Gallup surveys, the "yes" vote fell in four consecutive polls from 54 per cent on Feb. 7 to 47 per cent on March 21 before edging up to 48 per cent in a poll published a week ago.

Two polls by other institutes published earlier this week also bucked the trend of a gradual decline in support for the EC's blueprint for economic, monetary and political union.

Danes voted against the treaty by 50.7 per cent to 49.3 per cent in June last year, blocking Europe-wide implementation of the deal and plunging the Community into crisis.

The new vote will be on a revised deal agreed with the Community at a summit in Edinburgh in December, allowing Danes to opt out of long-term plans for a common currency, joint defence, union citizenship and supranational police cooperation.

Meanwhile the queue of countries eager to get closer to the European Community will move forward a few important paces Monday when EC foreign ministers deal with suitors from wealthy Scandinavia to the former Soviet Bloc.

Shipwreck salvor claims he found 964-carat emerald

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A shipwreck salvor says he